



UPDATE FOR COLBERT LANDFILL, SPOKANE COUNTY

August 1987

STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

COMMENT PERIOD BRINGS WRITTEN RESPONSES

Nearly 40 individuals, families, businesses and agencies wrote to the Department of Ecology to comment on proposed alternatives to clean up the Colbert Landfill. Comments ranged from approval to dislike of the highest ranked option, called "pump and treat." That option is to:

- o PUMP the contaminated water out of the ground;
- o TREAT the water to remove the contaminants; and
- o DISCHARGE the cleaned water to ground or surface waters.

Seventy-nine per cent of those expressing a preference selected PUMP AND TREAT as their first choice. Of the treatment options, people preferred air stripping towers (53%). Of the discharge options, 48% preferred the river outfall. A summary of the results follows.

<u>Alternative</u>	<u>Per Cent Selecting As First Choice</u>
Pump and Treat	79
Water System Only	18
Dig up contamination	3

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<u>Treatment Options</u>	<u>Per cent Preferring</u>	<u>Discharge Options</u>	<u>Per cent Preferring</u>
Air Stripping	53	River Outfall	48
Carbon Adsorption	17	Recharge Wells	23
Chemical Oxidation	17	Other or None	19
None or other	14	Drainfield	10

The concerns expressed in the written comments were similar to those expressed at the May 28 public meeting. They included both release of contaminants to the air from air stripping towers and to the river from cleaned water. Well owners wanted to be assured of an alternate water supply if their wells dried up. Potential flooding and erosion problems due to discharge into the Little Spokane River and Deep Creek was a concern.

The reasons for preferring the PUMP AND TREAT alternative included protecting the Little Spokane River, cleaning the aquifer, meeting cleanup criteria, keeping the plume from spreading, protecting public health, and requiring the least cost. Those preferring AIR STRIPPING for the treatment option cited cost effectiveness and efficiency. Several commentators recommended combining air stripping with carbon adsorption or chemical oxidation, to remove the contaminants from the air before releasing it to the atmosphere. Those preferring RIVER OUTFALL for the discharge option cited the cost, efficiency, thoroughness of explanation (at public meeting), and effectiveness.

The overriding concern of most commentators was the need to be assured of a source of clean drinking water in the Colbert area.

MEETING TRANSCRIPT AND COMMENTS SUMMARY

A transcript of the May 28, 1987, public meeting and a summary of the written comments are in the two Colbert Landfill information repositories. The public can review them at the North Branch of the Spokane Library, E. 44 Hawthorne Road, or at Ecology's Eastern Regional Office, N. 4601 Monroe Street, Suite 100, Spokane.

SELECTION OF CLEANUP OPTION

Ecology will recommend a preferred alternative to EPA by early September 1987. Ecology has been working on the Colbert Landfill problem under a cooperative agreement with EPA, which is the federal agency responsible for carrying out the federal Superfund program.

By September 30, 1987, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to select the cleanup option to be implemented at Colbert Landfill. EPA will issue a record of its decision. It will be available for public review at the Colbert Landfill information repositories (see above). A responsiveness summary will accompany this "record of decision." It will summarize concerns and issues raised during the comment period and present responses to them.

EPA SEARCHES FOR OTHER POTENTIALLY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

In September, EPA will begin looking for other businesses, agencies and individuals who may have contributed to the problems at the Colbert Landfill. An EPA contractor will search landfill and business records to identify others who disposed of organic solvents at the landfill. EPA should have their report by late October 1987.

The currently identified potentially responsible parties are Spokane County, Key Tronic Corporation and Fairchild Airforce Base.

INFORMAL PUBLIC MEETINGS IN EARLY SEPTEMBER

Ecology plans to hold an informal public meeting in early September to answer some questions that arose during the comment period that ended June 30, 1987. In two sessions covering the same material, Ecology staff will discuss air emissions, river discharges, potential flooding and erosion problems, and ground water levels. Afternoon and evening sessions will allow the public to attend the meeting that best fits their schedule. An announcement of the date, time and locations for these meetings will be made later.

NEW ECOLOGY PROJECT MANAGER

Mike Blum, a seven-year Department of Ecology technical and field expert, has taken over management of the Colbert Landfill cleanup project. Mike heads a team that has been working on the project for more than two years. The team consists of hydrogeologist Mike Gallagher, engineer Carol Kraege, community relations specialist Janet Rhodes, attorney Terese Richmond, contracts officer Mary Ann Eitelgeorge, and public affairs officer Perrin Kaplan.

Mike replaces Fred Gardner, who has moved to the investigation division of Ecology's cleanup program.

QUESTIONS? USE THE TOLL-FREE HOTLINE!

Ecology is continuing use of a 24-hour a day toll-free line to assist you in calling with questions about the Colbert Landfill site. The number is 1-800-458-0920. To help you most effectively, we have an answering machine. Please leave your name, phone number and the best time of day to call you. We will try to get back to you by the next business day.

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Department of Ecology
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Superfund Branch



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